CLAIM LISTING

Claim 1 (Original): A method of treating unwanted skin conditions associated with the production of sebum comprising:

introducing an exogenous chromophore to sebaceous glands, wherein the chromophore absorbs laser light having a wavelength between about 700 nm to about 1200 nm

irradiating the target sebaceous glands with laser light having a wavelength between about 700 nm to about 1200 nm for a time sufficient to inhibit sebum production.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of introducing an exogenous chromophore to sebaceous glands includes topically applying a chromophore in a lipid suspension such that said chromophore is selectively introduced to sebaceous glands.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein said lipid suspension comprises water, a pharmaceutically acceptable oil, and at least one surfactant.

Claim 4 (Original):The method of claim 2, wherein said lipid suspension comprises liposomes containing said chromophore.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein said chromophore is a dye.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein said dye preferably is selected from the group consisting of indocyanine green, Rhodamine B and cresyl violet.

Claim 7 (Original): A method of reducing sebum secretion comprising the steps of:

a) selectively introducing a chromophore to sebaceous glands; and,

b) irradiating said sebaceous glands with laser light of a wavelength that is essentially transmitted by the outer layers of human skin and is strongly absorbed by said chromophore, said irradiating being performed at a light fluence and for a time sufficient to disrupt sebaceous gland function such that sebum secretion is reduced.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 7, wherein said selectively introducing a chromophore to sebaceous glands comprises the step of topically applying a chromophore in a lipid suspension such that said chromophore is selectively introduced to sebaceous glands.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 7, wherein said laser light is produced by a diode laser.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein said laser is pulsed, with a pulse duration of about 1-100 msec, and said laser light has a fluence of about 5 to about 40 J/cm^2.

Claim 11 (Original): A method of reducing the severity of acne, comprising the steps of:

a) selectively introducing a chromophore to sebaceous glands; and,

b) irradiating said sebaceous glands with laser light of a wavelength that is essentially transmitted by the outer layers of human skin and is strongly absorbed by said chromophore, said irradiating being performed at a light fluence and for a time sufficient to disrupt sebaceous gland function such that the severity of said acne is reduced.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein said selectively introducing a chromophore to sebaceous glands comprises the step of topically applying a chromophore in a lipid suspension such that said chromophore is selectively introduced to sebaceous glands.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 12 wherein said selectively introducing a chromophore to sebaceous glands comprises solubilizing the chromophore in an oil and topically applying the solubilized chromophore such that said chromophore is selectively introduced to sebaceous glands.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 13 where said oil is selected from the group consisting of sunflower oil, olive oil, and safflower oil.

Claim 15 (Original): A method of treating unwanted skin conditions associated with the production of sebum comprising:

cleaning a target skin area in a manner to substantially clear pores;

topically administering an exogenous chromophore onto the target skin area in a manner such that the exogenous chromophore is absorbed into target sebaceous glands, wherein the chromophore absorbs laser light having a wavelength between about 700 nm to about 1200 nm; and

irradiating the target sebaceous glands with laser light having a wavelength between about 700 nm to about 1200 nm for a time sufficient to inhibit sebum production.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 15 wherein ~~said step of~~ cleaning a target skin area ~~comprise~~ comprises topically applying a glycolic acid solution.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 16 where the glycolic acid solution is neutralized using a neutralizing agent.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17 wherein said neutralizing agent is selected from the group consisting of water, bicarbonate, and GLYTONE.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[15]] 16 wherein said glycolic acid solution is removed by washing the target skin area with water.